

**Scrutiny of data of links with offshore firms**

1060. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India got data on 165 cases with links to offshore firms, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the data so received is under scrutiny with the Central Board of Direct Taxes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Information about certain offshore entities reportedly held by various Indian persons had appeared in media in April 2016 and thereafter and is attributed to the 'Panama Papers' leaks put in the public domain by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), a Washington based organization through its website ([www.icij.org](http://www.icij.org)).

Large numbers of requests under tax treaties have been made by the Income Tax Department to foreign jurisdictions concerned as part of investigations into the specific cases. Responses have been received in 99 cases.

(b) With a view to facilitate coordinated and speedy investigation in these cases, the Government had constituted a Multi-Agency Group in April 2016. The Group consists of the officers of Investigation Division of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Foreign Tax and Tax Research Division of CBDT, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and Reserve Bank of India. The Group has so far submitted 7 reports to the Government. The information received under the tax treaties can be used for tax purposes and its disclosure is governed by the confidentiality provisions of such tax treaties. Further, disclosure of information regarding specific taxpayers is prohibited except as provided under section 138 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

**Amendments in acts pertaining to political funding**

1061. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any further amendments in the RBI Act and Income Tax Act to cleanse political funding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?